

Protected Understory Tree Descriptions

Condalia

Condalia hookeri

Brazil, Capul Negro, Bluewood, Purple Haw
Canopy area value = 275 sq. ft

Evergreen shrub or tree to 30 feet, spreading crown, rigid branches, delicate foliage, usually multi-trunked, trunk to 8 inches diameter, slender reddish or gray spines, often form thickets, full sun to shade, well-drained site, very drought tolerant, good shade tree, edible berries attract wildlife and make good jelly and wine.

Leaves – Evergreen, alternate or tight clusters, 1/3-1 1/2 inches long, 1/3-1/2 inch wide, oval, taper toward stem, rounded tip, smooth edge, bright light green, shiny, hairy when young, leathery.

Flowers - Spring, small clusters or solitary small green individual flowers.

Fruit – Ripen throughout summer, dark blue to black when mature, fleshy, 1/4-1/3 inch diameter, rounded, shiny, smooth, thin skinned, very sweet, edible, 1 light brown seed 1/8 inch long, oval to round, flattened.



Condalia hookeri leaf



Condalia hookeri mature tree

Condalia viridis

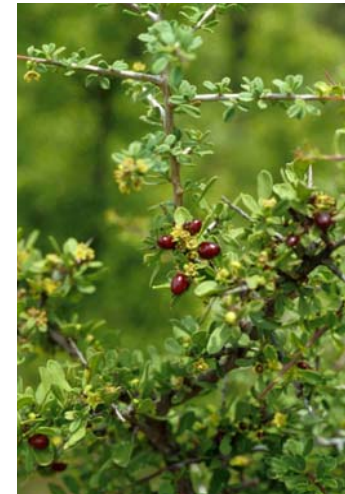
Green Condalia

Evergreen shrub to 9 feet, spreading branches, delicate foliage, spines, full sun to shade, very drought tolerant, good shade tree.

Leaves – Evergreen, 1/6-3/4 inch long, 1/12-1/4 inch wide, oval to oblong, taper toward stem, rounded tip, bright green, shiny, hairy when young.

Flowers - Spring, paired or solitary, small.

Fruit – Black, 1/5 inch long, round, 1 seed slightly less than 1/5 inch, elliptical.



Condalia viridis
branch and fruit

Texas Persimmon

Diospyros texana

Mexican Persimmon, Black Persimmon, Chapote
Canopy area value = 275 sq. ft

Deciduous shrub or tree to 40 feet, separate male and female plants, rounded crown, intricately branched, smooth bark, full sun to shade, well-drained site, abundant in Edwards Plateau, heavy black heartwood, beautiful pale gray bark peels off in strips to expose white trunk, female plants have edible fleshy fruit, fruit and leaves attract wildlife.



Diospyros texana – leaf (left) and mature fruit (below)



Leaves - Deciduous, alternate, 1-2 inches long, oval to oblong, rounded or notched tip, smooth edge, leathery, upper surface dark green, shiny, underside fuzzy.

Flowers – Early spring, male and female greenish white to white flowers on separate plants, solitary or in small cluster, individual flowers 1/3 inch long, bell shaped, fragrant.

Fruit – Summer, black, fleshy, 3/4-2 inch diameter, round, sweet, edible, 3-8 seeds 1/3 inch long, triangular, flattened, hard, shiny.



Diospyros texana - mature

Possum Haw

Ilex decidua

Deciduous Holly, Meadow Holly, Prairie Holly, Winterberry, Deciduous Yaupon
Canopy area value = 275 sq. ft

Usually a deciduous shrub with spreading open crown, sometimes a tree to 30 feet with trunk to 10 inch diameter, separate male and female plants, full sun to shade, can tolerate poor drainage, fruits attract birds, female plants attractive in winter because orange-red fruits remain on plant. Female plants commonly under the name Deciduous Yaupon in landscaping.

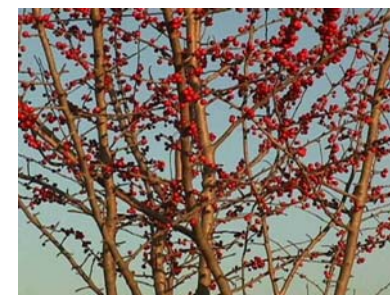
Leaves - Deciduous, alternate, 2-3 inches long, 1/2-1 1/2 inches wide, egg shaped to oblong, rounded to pointed tip, fine toothed edge, upper surface dark green, shiny or a few hairs, underside paler.

Flowers - March-May, male and female flowers on separate plants, solitary or a few clustered together, white, 1/8-1/6 inch long.

Fruit - Early fall, orange-red, 1/4-1/3 inch diameter, round, stay on branches after leaves fall, 4 seeds, 1/5 inch long, ribbed lengthwise.



Ilex decidua – leaf and fruit



Ilex decidua – twig and fruit

Texas Redbud/ Mexican Redbud

Cercis canadensis var. *texensis* /

Cercis canadensis var. *mexicana*

Canopy area value = 275 sq. ft

Deciduous shrub or tree to 40 feet, broad round or flattened crown, usually branching 5-9 feet from ground, full sun to shade, well-drained site, insect and disease resistant, fast growing, beautiful spring flower display with clustered pink to rose-purple or white flowers covering branches before leaves emerge, seeds attract birds, foliage browsed by deer.

Leaves - Deciduous, alternate, 2-6 inches long, 1¼-6 inches wide, oval to heart or kidney shaped, pointed or rounded tip, smooth edge, stiff, leathery, upper surface dark green to bluish, shiny, smooth, underside paler, may have hairs along veins, turn yellow in fall.



Cercis canadensis var. *texensis* – leaf

Flowers - March-May, 2-8 in pink to rose-purple or white cluster, individual flowers ¼-1/2 inch long.



Cercis canadensis var. *texensis* – mature tree (left) and in bloom (below)



Fruit - September-October, reddish brown pod 2-4 inches long, ½ inch wide, tapered at both ends, flattened, papery or leathery, several dark brown seeds, 1/4 inch long, oblong, flattened, shiny.

Texas Mountain Laurel *Sophora secundiflora*

Mescal Bean, Frijollito
Canopy area value = not applicable

Evergreen shrub or tree to 35 feet, narrow top, upright branches, full sun to partial

shade, well-drained site, tolerates some salinity, slow growing, very fragrant showy violet flowers.

Leaves - Evergreen, alternate, compound, 4-6 inches long, leaflets 1-2 ½ inches long, ½-1 ½ inches wide, oblong to elliptic, smooth edge, upper surface dark green, shiny, leathery, hairy when young, underside paler.

Flowers – March-April, dense violet clusters at ends of branches, 2-4 ¾ inches long, showy, sweet fragrance.

Fruit – September, long narrow pod 1-5 inches long, ¾ inches wide, woody, hard, dense brown hairs, slightly constricted between seeds, 1-8 red seeds ½ inch long, round to oblong, hard, poisonous.



Left: *Sophora secundiflora* - leaf

Below: *Sophora secundiflora* - mature



Texas Crabapple / Downy Hawthorn

Crataegus texana

Canopy area value = 275 sq. ft

Deciduous tree to 15 feet, open rounded crown, full to partial sun, fruit attracts wildlife and makes good jelly, beautiful spring flowers, rare in the wild.

Leaves - Deciduous, alternate, 2-3 inches long, elliptic to oblong, may be slightly lobed, single or double-toothed edge, shiny, upper surface dark green, smooth, underside dense white hairs or almost smooth, turn yellow or various pink shades in fall.

Flowers - April-June, white or pink clusters, individual flowers 1-1 ½ inches diameter, fragrant.

Fruit - September-October, yellow to green apples, may have small yellow dots, ¾-1 ¼ inches in length, ¾-1 ½ inches thick, hard, waxy surface, edible, extremely tart flesh, 1-3 black seeds ¼ inch long.



Crataegus texana - flower and leaf
(above); mature tree (below)

